

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
KENTUCKY

CONTOURING ORCHARD AND OTHER FRUIT AREA (Ac.)

331

STANDARD

- Definition -

Planting orchards, vineyards, or small fruits so that all cultural operations can be done on the contour.

- Purpose -

To reduce soil and water loss, to better control and use water, and to operate farm equipment more easily.

- Conditions Where Practice Applies -

On sloping land where soil and water losses need to be controlled, especially if a permanent cover is not established.

SPECIFICATIONS

1. Plant each row as nearly on the contour as practical. Deviation from the true contour will be sufficient to provide for the practical operation of equipment, but grade should not exceed two percent, except for a maximum 100-foot length where the deviation toward the waterway end or a ridge divide may be, but should not exceed 3 percent. Guidelines for slowly permeable soils should be established on a slight grade (0.5 to 1.0 percent) toward grassed waterways.
2. All other tillage and planting operations should be parallel to the rows.
3. Where diversions or terraces are used, the rows should be planted so that the greatest number practical are parallel to the diversion or terrace ridge.
4. Existing waterways should be left in sod, and new grassed waterways established and maintained where needed to control erosion and sediment production.
5. Fences or other obstructions in fields should be removed or relocated to facilitate the establishment of contour rows.